

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 2018

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana continues to wait for spring conditions to arrive, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The high temperature for the state was recorded in Billings at 71 degrees. The low temperature for the week was recorded in Wibaux at 5 degrees. Precipitation was reported at 90 weather stations. The highest recorded precipitation for the week was in Miles City with 1.50 inches of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 87 percent adequate to surplus which is below last year's 93 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 67 percent adequate to surplus which is below last year's 87 percent. Reporters noted that conditions remained too wet for field work throughout the state, with snowy conditions and flooding reported in much of the state. The late spring was causing some producers to change their planting intentions, according to reporters; with some reporting plans to plant fewer pulse acres in favor of spring wheat or barley. Cattle receiving supplemental feed was reported as 95 percent this week, compared to 75 percent in the same week last year. Hay supplies remain a concern for reporters as pastures still have significant snow cover and hay supplies are dwindling. Cold temperatures, snow cover, and low feed supplies have led to challenging calving conditions per reporters. Teton County reported calf losses of between 10 to 15 percent. Calving progress was reported at 71 percent complete compared to 55 percent in the previous report, and 76 percent at this time last year. The remaining snow has made rating the progress and condition of the winter wheat crop difficult in many areas, according to reporters. Winter wheat was reported with 17 percent of the crop breaking dormancy, significantly behind last year's progress report of 93 percent for the same week. Sixty-five percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared to 67 percent last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy.....	17	12	93	NA
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	71	55	76	69
Receiving supplemental feed.....	95	97	75	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	53	30	74	59
Receiving supplemental feed.....	98	99	79	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work.....	0.3	0.5	3.9	4.0
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	1	1	6
Short.....	12	10	6	19
Adequate.....	47	60	79	65
Surplus.....	40	29	14	10
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	5	3	8
Short.....	24	20	10	21
Adequate.....	47	65	72	62
Surplus.....	20	10	15	9

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open.....	33	25	81	69
Difficult.....	37	39	13	16
Closed.....	30	36	6	15
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	19	21	1	9
Poor.....	36	31	9	20
Fair.....	29	32	34	40
Good.....	11	14	40	26
Excellent.....	5	2	16	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	1	2
Poor.....	9	21	5	6
Fair.....	25	20	27	31
Good.....	50	51	55	48
Excellent.....	15	7	12	13

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2018/MT-Weather-04152018.pdf